

## Week 7 TERM 3 2010

Goals for the week:

**KEY COMPETENCIES:** Honesty is our focus for this week. We will brainstorm a Y chart on Honesty - looks like/sounds like/feels like.

**INQUIRY:** Finish animations - with titles, credits and music or voiceover. These will be shared into Quicktime so students are able to take these home for viewing.

**WRITING:** Introduce students to 'Report Writing'.  
Finish second draft of epals letters.

**NUMERACY:** Cement some basic numeracy facts to those struggling with concepts. (Place value for ones, tens, hundreds & thousands, doubles to 20, 5 x's tables, problem solving using written problems).  
Provide an achievable stretch basic of numeracy facts for those achieving well above cohort.  
Provide maintenance for those students working at their age appropriate levels.  
Introduce new games, providing a variety of interest in maths work.  
Maintain the momentum of interest and excitement in playing 'Tutpup' during ICT time.

**READING:** Working through the 'Blue Box' of reading comprehension cards.  
Provide time for sustained, quiet, uninterrupted reading time of fictions novels of the student's own choosing.

**PE:** Provide opportunity for students to reach an appreciation of playing a team game such as soccer.

**ART:** Introduce students to claymation - making clay figurines using pipe cleaners and plasticine.

### REFLECTIONS:

**Inquiry:** The animations have taken a long time to finish, but the end result has been worth the effort. The students have attempted to work with their success criteria in mind so that they are achieving at least in the 'At' section.

**Key Competencies:** The 'Honesty' Y chart is now hanging in our foyer. This is totally the student work - all students wrote at least one word onto the chart as their contribution - these words were their own or provided by their cohort.

**Writing:** First report written to a schema that provides the outline of how to write a basic report. This report was modeled as a class brainstorm lesson on Bats using a range of Bat facts. The students composed their own success criteria and worked using this as a guide to successful report writing. Overall the students produced excellent factual reports, some students need further practice to gain a deeper understanding of how a paragraph works. This will be the focus of future report writing.

**Numeracy:** The students have worked hard at their maths this week. Some are still struggling with basic concepts. Nicole is showing signs that she is finally grasping and remembering basic concepts. Courtney and Nathan are starting to move quickly through the concept levels and are working hard at remembering their basic facts. (Adrianna,

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Dahria and Litysha still provide cause for concern with an inability of retaining basic facts and using these in correct situations). Tutpup is proving to be very popular with the students relishing the opportunity to challenge their classmates as well as other students around the world. I introduced the students to <http://www.amblesideprimary.com/ambleweb/mentalmaths/numberbond.html>. This site provides interactive practice at number bonds to 5, to 10 and to 100. As usual when presented with a competition the students relished the opportunity to beat their peers.

**Reading:** The students enjoy their silent reading. This shows a huge improvement in the last 2 months where there was a resistance by the boys to reading novels. They enjoy filling in their reading record cards and writing an opinion about the novel.

I spent Tuesday the 31st of August 2010 at Shannon School with Shane Burgess working with a Year 3/4 class. This was a valuable experience for me observing his literacy and numeracy programs. Shane is an enthusiastic and innovative teacher and I have taken away a number of ideas that I am keen to put into play. The first of which being the schema used this week to model 'Report Writing'. Shane has his literacy program running religiously every day at 9.30 am to the morning break. After the morning break the numeracy program takes over. Shane breaks his class into 5 groups for writing and conferences with each student at least once a week.

Shane is very organised and the students prepare for the next lesson before they break for morning break. This is a management practice I like and will be integrating into my praxis. Shane also has class experts assisting those struggling with their work. I would like to do this with my class experts. The rationale is that this is a win/win situation, with the class experts gaining experience and embedding their learning and that those being taught learn best from their peers.

Friday the 3rd of August was spent doing Running Reading records on all students. All students have made gains over their recorded reading age and a further retest will be done in Term 4. Mrs Aden was the relief teacher for the day. Mrs Aden took a follow up lesson on report writing, I will look at the results over the weekend and follow up next week.

A concern highlighted by the reading records was that though the students are reading above their chronological age they have a lower level of comprehension of what they read. This means that we will be working on slowing down the reading and focusing on working out what we are reading and understanding the text.